



UNITED STATES TRANSPORTATION COMMAND

508 SCOTT DR
SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE IL 62225-5357

20 March 1995

Vice Admiral (Ret.) Albert J. Herberger
Maritime Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington DC 20590

Dear Admiral Herberger

USTRANSCOM continues to be supportive of DOT's proposed Maritime Security Program (MSP) and the associated benefits to national defense in terms of both sealift and merchant mariner capability.

During implementation of MSP, however, we believe national defense issues need to be adequately addressed in the selection of vessels. The multiple factors that apply to ship selection need to be appropriately prioritized and weighted. For example, militarily useful capacity is critical to USTRANSCOM and should not only be a top priority in the selection process but should also be weighted higher than other factors such as ocean carrier experience or carrier access to commercial resources.

We look forward to working with you and your staff in establishing a vessel selection matrix that addresses our mutual concerns as well as other issues related to national defense.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. L. Rutherford", is written over the typed name.

ROBERT L. RUTHERFORD
General, USAF
Commander in Chief